III

A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL ACT, 1919.

The discussion of the Bill to amend the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, which had been referred back to the select committee for further consideration was then taken up.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Honourable members are aware that the last time the Bill was before the House, it had under consideration an amendment proposed by the Hon'ble the Home Member, Sir Lionel Davidson, to clause 4 of the Bill. The amendment was—

From the explanation in sub-clause (1) *omit* the words 'thereof or of a portion thereof' and the words 'at cost price or at less or more than cost price.'

" That was the amendment which was under the consideration of the House when the further consideration of the Bill was adjourned."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—" When at the February sitting of the Council the report of the select committee on the Bill to amend the Madras City Municipal Act of 1919 was under consideration and the amendment to clause IV then tabled was discussed, some honourable members had their own doubts as to whether the object of the legislation would be fulfilled by the introduction of the amendment under discussion. Thereupon it was proposed that the subject should be referred back to the select committee for further consideration. Sir, as the result of further consideration by the select committee, an amendment has been drafted. The amendment stands in my name which, with your permission, I propose to move."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" The House has before it already an amendment moved by the Hon'ble the Home Member. The first thing would be for him to withdraw his own amendment and leave the field clear for the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" I am quite ready to withdraw my amendment if the House gives me leave. I am a party to the present amendment."

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—" Sir, I now move the amendment that stands in my name :—

For the explanation in clause 4 (1) of the Bill *substitute* the following :—

' The purchase of provisions and other necessaries for sale to municipal subordinates.

Explanation.—' Salary ' for the purpose of this rule shall include the privilege, if any, granted by the Corporation of receiving payments in kind in lieu of the whole or a portion of the salary by purchasing the articles from the Corporation at such prices as the Corporation may fix from time to time.'

" Sir, this amendment is expected to cover the ground intended. I think there will not be any difficulty in the Council accepting this amendment."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—" I second it, Sir."

The Hon'ble Sir LIONEL DAVIDSON :—" Perhaps I may explain, Sir, that the amendment is for an addition at the end of a rule which contains a catalogue of the various objects upon which municipal expenditure is permissible. To the end of that catalogue another item is added. Then follows the revised 'explanation'. It is hardly intelligible without a reference to the schedule of the principal Act."

3-15 p.m.

The motion was carried.

Clause 4 (1) as amended was put to the House, passed and added to the Bill.

Then the preamble was put and passed and added to the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. Ramarayaningar :—"I now move that the Bill be passed into law."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur :—"I second it."

The question that the Bill to amend the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, be passed into law was put and carried."

The Bill was passed into law.

IV

A BILL TO AMEND THE INDIAN STAMP ACT, 1899.

The Hon'ble the President :—"The House will now take up the consideration of the Bill to amend the Indian Stamp Act, 1899."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur :—"Sir, I beg to present the report of the select committee on the Bill to amend the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, and to move that the Bill as reported by the committee be taken into consideration".

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson :—"I second the motion."

The motion that the Bill to amend the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, as amended by the select committee be taken into consideration was put and carried.

The Hon'ble the President :—"I will now put this Bill to the House clause by clause. The preamble will come at the end, and the Hon'ble the Revenue Member will move it then. We will now take up clause 1."

Clause 1.

Amendment 2.

Mr. P. Venkatasubba Rao :—"I beg to move the following amendment:—

2. *In sub-clause* (1) *insert the word 'Temporary' before the word 'Amendment.'*

"Sir, in spite of the fate of a similar amendment proposed by me yesterday, I do not think I shall be wrong in persisting in my attitude towards this Bill also. I see no justification for a permanent increase in the stamp duties. As there is some prospect of substantial remission of our contributions to the Imperial Government, they will not be as heavy as at present. During the discussion on the Court Fees Bill, it was some consolation to learn that a portion of the revenue proposed to be raised will be utilized for increasing the pay of the village officers. May I submit that increasing the pay of the village officers like all other services is a charge on the ordinary revenues of this presidency? Why was it not proposed to increase the taxation to meet the increase in the salaries and allowances of the gazetted officers? When the question of increasing the pay of these poor village officers comes up, proposals for additional taxation also come in side by side.